



United States Attorney's Office  
District of Columbia

Channing D. Phillips  
Acting United States Attorney

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Treasury Department Employee Pleads Guilty to Stealing Government Funds**

WASHINGTON - District resident Derrick Hampton, 30, an employee of the U.S. Department of Treasury, pleaded guilty today in U.S. District Court to Theft of Public Money for stealing more than \$25,000 from the United States government, Acting U.S. Attorney Channing D. Phillips announced.

The guilty plea was entered before the Honorable Richard W. Roberts, U.S. District Court Judge. Sentencing is scheduled for August 25, 2009. The defendant faces a possible statutory sentence of up to 10 years of incarceration, a fine of up to \$250,000, a \$100 special assessment, and a 3-year term of supervised release. Under the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, the defendant faces a likely sentence of up to 6 months of probation or incarceration.

According to the information presented to the Court by the government, beginning in May, 2005, the defendant worked as a Legal Technician for the Treasury Department's Office of the Comptroller of the Currency ("OCC"), which charters, regulates, and supervises all national banks, and also supervises the federal branches and agencies of foreign banks. As a Legal Technician, the defendant provided assistance to OCC staff attorneys, including processing official travel requests and reimbursements for attorneys and other OCC employees.

Between December, 2007, and September, 2008, the defendant submitted or caused to be submitted numerous false travel claims using OCC's electronic travel claim reimbursement system. He entered false information into the travel reimbursement system, claiming he was owed reimbursement for official government travel, and directing that reimbursement be deposited electronically into his personal bank account. In fact, the defendant had not traveled on official business, nor was he authorized to submit any claims for travel reimbursement, during this period. The defendant's false travel submissions resulted in him receiving more than \$25,000 from the United States, to which he was not entitled. The defendant used this money for his personal benefit.

In announcing today's guilty plea, Acting U.S. Attorney Phillips commended the work of Special Agent Sonja Scott of the Department of the Treasury, Office of Investigator General, Office of Investigations. He also commended the staff the U.S. Attorney's Office, including Legal Assistant Jamasee Lucas, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Jonathan Haray, who is prosecuting the case.

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